

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 5, 11, 12, 18, 21 and 23-29.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

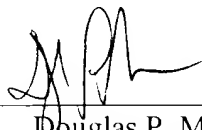
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at 612.371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Copy of Claims

5. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, wherein the first filtration layer of the filter cartridge has a void rate of 65 to 90%.
11. The filter cartridge as described in [claim 9 or 10] claim 9, wherein the aperture part has an area ratio of 5 to 60% based on the whole area of the strip of nonwoven having aperture parts.
12. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, wherein a porous material other than the strip of nowoven having an aperture part is used for a part of the filtration layer in the filter cartridge.
18. The filter cartridge as described in [claim 16 or 17] claim 16, wherein a porous material other than the strip of filament nonwoven having a tongue section part is used for a part of the filtration layer in the filter cartridge.
21. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic fiber is a thermally adherent composite fiber comprising a low melting point resin and a high melting point resin, difference in melting point between both resins being 10°C or more.
23. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 1, wherein fiber intersections in the strip of nonwoven are bonded by thermal compression bonding by means of a hot embossing roll.
24. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 1, wherein fiber intersections in the strip of nonwoven are bonded by hot air.
25. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 1, wherein the strip of nonwoven is twisted.
26. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 9, wherein the filtration layer of the filter cartridge has a void rate of 65 to 90%.
27. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 9, wherein the strip of nonwoven comprises at least 30% by weight of the thermoplastic fiber.
28. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 1, 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 1, wherein the strip of nonwoven has a width of 0.5 cm or more, and a product of a width (cm) and a mass per unit area (g/cm^2) of the strip of nonwoven is 200 or less.
29. The filter cartridge as described in [any of claims 9, 13, 16 and 19] claim 9, wherein the strip of nonwoven is a filament nonwoven.